



## Redescription of *Minosiella intermedia* Denis, 1958 (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) with first description of the male

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*Minosiella* Dalmás, 1921 is a small genus of Gnaphosinae spiders comprising only six species known from western Palaearctic, ranging from Algeria to Afghanistan (Platnick, 2009). Males of this genus can be easily recognized thanks to strong cymbial spines (Figs 1–3, 9–11). Four species of *Minosiella* are known from both sexes, and two from females only. One of the latter, *Minosiella intermedia* Denis, 1958 was reported from Turkmenistan and from the Aral Sea (Ovtsharenko & Fet, 1980; Krivokhatski & Fet, 1982; Mikhailov, 1997). Although this species was reported several times from the former Soviet Union and not less than 450 specimens of *M. intermedia* have been collected in Karakum Desert (Krivokhatski & Fet, 1982), the male of this species was not described yet.

While studying some material from Turkmenistan collected by A.V. Gromov we found one sample that contained females and the male of *M. intermedia*. Therefore in this paper we provide the first description of the male of *M. intermedia* and further records of the species in Turkmenistan.

Specimens were photographed using an Olympus Camedia C-5050 camera attached to an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope. The focal planes were combined using “CombineZM” image stacking software. Material presented herein will be deposited in the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University (ZMMU). All measurements are given in mm.

The following abbreviations have been used in the text: a—apical; d—dorsal; pl—prolateral; rl—retrolateral; v — ventral.

### *Minosiella intermedia* Denis, 1958

Figs 1–15

*M. i.* Denis, 1958: 94, f. 16 (♀).

**Material examined.** TURKMENISTAN. 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Mary Area, Kushka District, ca 1.5 km NNE of Chemenibit, Kushka River valley, right riverside, ca. 520 m (35°28'21" N, 62°24'32" E), 5.04.2002 (A.V. Gromov).

**Diagnosis.** *M. intermedia* is very similar to *M. pallida* (L. Koch, 1875) (cf Dalmás, 1921: f. 116, 119) from which it can be distinguished by the outgrowth on the male palpal femur and the wider posterior part of the epigynal fovea (width of anterior and posterior parts equal in width in *M. pallida*). From the generotype, *M. mediocris* Dalmás, 1921 (cf. Levy, 1995; Murphy, 2007), it differs by the shape of the male palp and of the epigyne.

**Description.** Measurements (♂/♀): total length 4.4/3.8; carapace 1.9/2.1 length, 1.6/1.7 width. Abdomen length 2.3/2.3. Length of leg segments (♂/♀):

	femur	patella	tibia	metatarsus	tarsus
I	1.4 / 1.4	0.8 / 0.8	1.0 / 0.9	0.8 / 0.8	0.6 / 0.6
II	1.3 / 1.3	0.8 / 0.8	0.8 / 0.8	0.8 / 0.8	0.6 / 0.6
III	1.2 / 1.2	0.7 / 0.7	0.7 / 0.6	1.2 / 1.0	0.7 / 0.6
IV	1.7 / 1.6	0.8 / 1.0	1.1 / 1.1	1.6 / 1.5	0.8 / 0.8